

Fertility Trends in Thailand

Patama Vapattanawong and Pramote Prasartkul

Abstract

This study intends to measure fertility by calculating age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) and total fertility rate (TFR) every 5 years during 1973 – 2003. Data used are number of registered live births classified by age group of mother. These data are from civil registration which processed and published by Ministry of Public Health through “Public Health Statistics” annual report. It is found that TFR was declining from 5.7 in 1973 to 1.5 in 2003. The sharp decline in TFR occurred during the 15 years period between 1973 to 1988. The peak of fertility had been among women in the 20 – 24 age group until 2003 when the peak shifted to the 25 – 29 age group. The study confirms the potentiality of using the birth registration to measure the fertility trend among the Thai population.